

GS SCORE

An Institute for Civil Services

IAS

2025-26

SOCIOLOGY FOUNDATION

3.5 Months Comprehensive Programme to cover complete syllabus of **Sociology Optional**

Class dictation to organise most important topics

Daily Answer Writing Practice and on spot feedback by Faculty

Embedding the **PYQ discussion** for a holistic preparation

Direct One to One Discussion with the faculty on regular basis

Cultivating Sociological Imagination to **integrate Current Affairs for Applied Sociology.**



8448496262



iascore.in

Mentor: **SMRITI RAO MISHRA**

PROGRAMME FEATURES

Interactive and immersive classes to **enhance one's grasp** over the subject

Special Emphasis on Interlinkage of **Paper 1** and **Paper 2**

Discussion of **Previous Year Papers** for **understanding the demand** of the examination

Test series for **Assessment & Gradual Improvement: 12 Tests** including **8 Sectional & 4 Mock Tests**.

Regular **Doubt Clearing Session** with the **Faculty**.

WHY SOCIOLOGY OPTIONAL

01

Sociology optional is one of the high scoring and often chosen optional subjects in UPSC CSE.

02

The nature of the syllabus and its significant overlap with GS Society, Ethics, and in small measures other GS papers renders it a unique quality of being a super subject.

03

It is a social science and is popular with humanities students. Since it is easy to understand, even science background students can attempt it safely.

04

It helps with the essay paper since generally at least one essay is asked on social issues. It will also help in the interview round.

ABOUT FACULTY

In **GS SCORE** the Sociology Optional classes for **UPSC Mains** is under the guidance of **Smriti Rao Mishra**. She has a close affinity with the Sociology discipline. Having pursued her **academic career in Sociology with Masters at Delhi School of Economics**, her passion for the subject has grown by leaps and bounds. She mentored numerous UPSC aspirants in the decade long journey. Her role as a faculty comes to the fore, having understood the needs of students, bottom up. Through her interactive and immersive classes she yearns to make Sociology optional accessible and approachable for aspirants coming from diverse academic backgrounds.

SYLLABUS

TO BE COVERED

PAPER - 1

FUNDAMENTALS OF SOCIOLOGY

- **Sociology - The Discipline:**
 - Modernity and social changes in Europe and emergence of sociology
 - Scope of the subject and comparison with other social sciences
 - Sociology & Common Sense
- **Sociology as Science:**
 - Science, Scientific Method & Critique
 - Major theoretical strands of research methodology
 - Positivism & Its Critique
 - Fact Value and Objectivity
 - Non-positivist Methodologies
- **Research Methods & Analysis:**
 - Qualitative and Quantitative Methods
 - Techniques of Data Collection
 - Variables, Sampling, Hypothesis, Reliability & Validity
- **Sociological Thinkers:**
 - Karl Marx- Historical materialism, mode of production, alienation, class struggle
 - Emile Durkheim- Division of labour, social fact, suicide, religion and society
 - Max Weber- Social action, ideal types, authority, bureaucracy, protestant ethic and the spirit of capitalism
 - Talcott Parsons- Social system, pattern variables
 - Robert K Merton- Latent and manifest functions, conformity and deviance, reference groups
 - Mead - Self and identity
- **Stratification & Mobility:**
 - Concepts- equality, inequality, hierarchy, exclusion, poverty and deprivation
 - Theories of social stratification- Structural functionalist theory,
 - Marxist theory, Weberian theory
 - Dimensions – Social stratification of class, status groups, gender, ethnicity and race
 - Social mobility- open and closed systems, types of mobility, sources and causes of mobility
- **Works & Economic Life:**
 - Social organization of work in different types of society- slave society, feudal society, industrial /capitalist society

- Formal & Informal Organization of Work
- Labour & Society
- ▣ **Politics & Society:**
 - Sociological Theories of Power
 - Power Elite, Bureaucracy, Pressure Groups, and Political Parties
 - Nation, State, Citizenship, Democracy, Civil Society, Ideology
 - Protest, Agitation, Social Movements, Collective Action, Revolution
- ▣ **Religion & Society:**
 - Sociological Theories of Religion
 - Types of Religious Practices: Animism, monism, pluralism, sects, cults
 - Religion in modern society: religion and science, secularization, religious revivalism, fundamentalism
- ▣ **Systems of Kinship:**
 - Family, household, marriage
 - Types and forms of family
 - Lineage and descent
 - Patriarchy and sexual division of labour
 - Contemporary trends
- ▣ **Social Change in Modern Society:**
 - Sociological theories of social change
 - Development and dependency
 - Agents of social change
 - Education and social change
 - Science, technology and social change

PAPER - 2

INDIAN ADMINISTRATION

- ▣ **Introducing Indian Society:**
 - **Perspectives on the study of Indian society:**
 - Indology (GS Ghurye)
 - Structural functionalism (M N Srinivas)
 - Marxist sociology (A R Desai)
 - **Impact of colonial rule on Indian society :**
 - Social background of Indian nationalism
 - Modernization of Indian tradition
 - Protests and movements during the colonial period
 - Social reforms
- ▣ **Social Structure:**
 - **Rural and Agrarian Social Structure:**
 - The idea of Indian village and village studies-
 - Agrarian social structure - evolution of land tenure system, land reforms
 - **Caste System:**
 - Perspectives on the study of caste systems: GS Ghurye, M N

- ▶ Srinivas, Louis Dumont, Andre Beteille
- ▶ Features of Caste System
- ▶ Untouchability - Forms & Perspectives
- ◉ **Tribal communities in India:**
 - ▶ Definitional Problems
 - ▶ Geographical Spread
 - ▶ Colonial Policies & Tribes
 - ▶ Issues of Integration & Autonomy
- ◉ **Social Classes in India:**
 - ▶ Agrarian Class Structure
 - ▶ Industrial Class Structure
 - ▶ Middle Classes in India
- ◉ **Systems of Kinship in India:**
 - ▶ Lineage & Descent in India
 - ▶ Types of Kinship Systems
 - ▶ Family & Marriage in India
 - ▶ Household Dimensions of the Family
 - ▶ Patriarchy, Entitlements & Sexual Division of Labour
- ◉ **Religion & Society:**
 - ▶ Religious Communities in India
 - ▶ Problems of Religious Minorities
- ▣ **Social Changes in India:**
 - ◉ **Visions of Social Change in India:**
 - ▶ Idea of Development Planning & Mixed Economy
 - ▶ Constitution, Law & Social Change
 - ▶ Education & Social Change
 - ◉ **Rural & Agrarian Transformation in India:**
 - ▶ Programmes of Rural Development, Community
 - ▶ Development Programme, Cooperatives, Poverty Alleviation Schemes
 - ▶ Green Revolution & Social Change
 - ▶ Changing Modes of Production in Indian Agriculture
 - ▶ Problems of Rural Labour, Bondage, Migration
 - ◉ **Industrialization & Urbanisation in India:**
 - ▶ Evolution of Modern Industry in India
 - ▶ Growth of Urban Settlements in India
 - ▶ Working Class: Structure, Growth, Class Mobilization
 - ▶ Informal Sector, Child Labour
 - ▶ Slums & Deprivation in Urban Areas
 - ◉ **Politics & Society:**
 - ▶ Nation, Democracy & Citizenship
 - ▶ Political Parties, Pressure Groups, Social & Political Elite
 - ▶ Regionalism & Decentralization of Power
 - ▶ Secularization
 - ◉ **Social Movements in Modern India:**
 - ▶ Peasants & Farmers Movements
 - ▶ Women's Movement
 - ▶ Backward Classes & Dalit Movement
 - ▶ Environmental Movements
 - ▶ Ethnicity & Identity Movements

◉ Population Dynamics:

- Population Size, Growth, Composition and Distribution
- Components of Population Growth: Birth, Death, Migration
- Population Policy & Family Planning
- Emerging Issues: Ageing, Sex Ratios, Child & Infant Mortality, Reproductive Health

◉ Challenges of Social Trans-formation:

- Crisis of Development: Displacement, Environmental
- Problems & Sustainability
- Poverty, Deprivation & Inequalities
- Violence Against Women
- Caste Conflicts
- Ethnic Conflicts, Communalism, Religious Revivalism
- Illiteracy & Disparities In Education





SUCCESS IS A PRACTICE WE DO!

